

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SD-5926/S87506
SERIAL NO. 08/791,724
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of being "practiced on a computer" as the method is not intended to be implemented by hand. In light of the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in this matter, this additional limitation is intended to direct Claim 1 to statutory subject matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Claim 3 has been amended to correctly depend from independent Claim 2. Claims 4, 6-8, 11, and 12 depend from Claim 3. Claims 13-15 depend from Claim 12. In light of the amendment to Claim 2 and the following remarks, reconsideration of Claims 2, 3, 4, 6-8, and 11-15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 10, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated. The Examiner has stated that Claims 2, 5, 10, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Basu et al., "Aspen: A Microsimulation Model of the Economy" October 1996. This reference was written by the inventors (Pryor and Basu) of the present application and published by the assignee (Sandia Corporation) of the present application. Additional authors listed on this reference contributed only to the work of authorship and not to the invention, and so were not deemed to be inventors. Therefore, the invention was not known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 5, 10, 16, and

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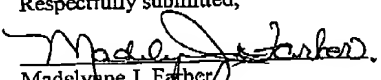
17, and any claims that depend therefrom, are in allowable form and requests reconsideration.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-8 and 10-17, as amended, are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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